



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,349	05/31/2001	Paul J. Bryan	4822-001	9565

24112 7590 12/12/2006

COATS & BENNETT, PLLC
P O BOX 5
RALEIGH, NC 27602

EXAMINER

MENDIRATTA, VISHU K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

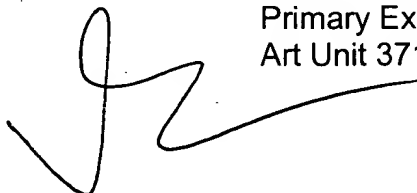
1. The reply brief filed 10/2/06 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to Board of Patent appeals and interferences for decision on the appeal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishu K. Mendiratta whose telephone number is (571) 272-4426. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Vishu K Mendiratta
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vishu K Mendiratta', written over the printed name and title.

Application/Control Number: 09/871,349

Page 3

Art Unit: 3711

A handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, consisting of a stylized 'U' or 'Q' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.

VKM

November 30, 2006